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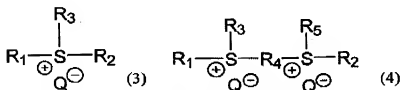
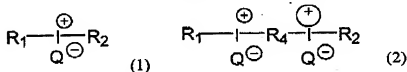
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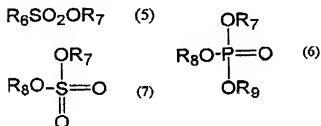
A) Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing an onium salt derivative, characterized by comprising reacting an onium salt derivative which has a halide Q as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of formulas (1) through (4):



wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_5 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤ 25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of R_1 and R_3 , and R_2 and R_5 may together form a divalent organic group; R_4 represents a $\text{C}\leq 20$ divalent organic group; and Q represents a halide anion,

with an ester compound which has an alkyl group R_7 and which is represented by any one of formulas (5) through (7):



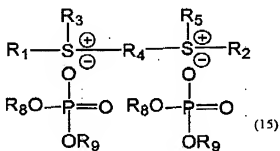
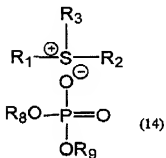
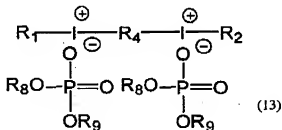
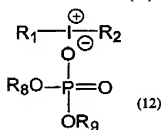
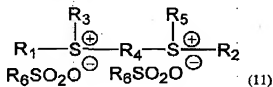
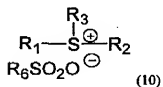
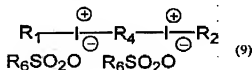
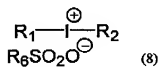
wherein R_6 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤ 25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; R_7 represents an alkyl group, having ≤ 5 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and each of R_8 and R_9 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤ 10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted,

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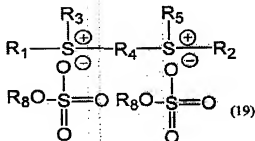
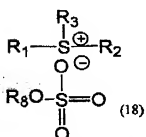
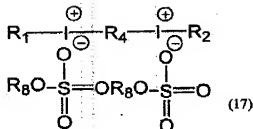
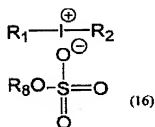
to thereby form R_7Q through nucleophilic attack by the halide Q on the alkyl group R_7 of the ester compound, and to also produce an onium salt derivative which is formed of an anion represented by any one of $R_6SO_2O^-$, $PO_3R_6R_9^-$, $PO_3R_6R_9^-$, and $R_6SO_4^-$ derived from the ester compound compound and an onium cation derived from the onium salt, an onium salt derivative represented by one of formulas (8) through (19).



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2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 1, wherein reaction is carried out while removing generated R_4Q from the reaction system.

4. (previously amended) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

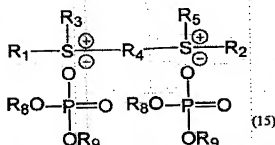
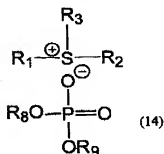
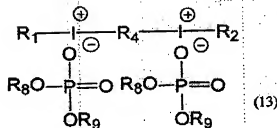
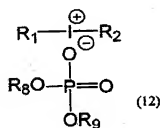
8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

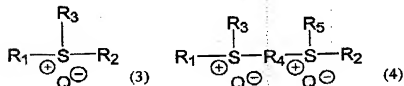
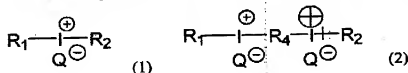
11. (previously amended) An onium compound which has a phosphate derivative as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of formulas (12) through (15):

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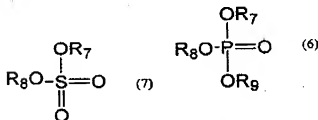
wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_5 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤ 25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of R_1 and R_3 , and R_2 and R_5 may together form a divalent organic group; R_4 represents a $\text{C} \leq 20$ divalent organic group; and each of R_8 and R_9 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤ 10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted.

12. (currently amended) A method for producing an onium salt derivative, characterized by comprising reacting an onium salt which has a halide Q as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of the following formulas (1) through (4):



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wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤ 25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of R_1 and R_3 , and R_2 and R_4 may together form a divalent organic group; R_5 represents a $C\leq 20$ divalent organic group; and Q represents a halide anion or a $C\leq 10$ carboxylate anion, with an ester compound which has an alkyl group R_7 and which is represented by any one of formulas (6) or (7):



wherein R_7 represents an alkyl group, having ≤ 5 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and each of R_8 and R_9 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤ 10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted;

to thereby form R_7Q through nucleophilic attack by the halide Q on the alkyl group R_7 of the ester compound, and to also produce an onium salt derivative which is formed of an anion represented by an one of $R_5\text{SO}_3^-$, $\text{PO}_3\text{R}_5\text{R}_9^-$, $\text{PO}_3\text{R}_5\text{R}_9^-$, and or $R_5\text{SO}_4^-$ derived from the ester compound compound and an onium cation derived from the onium salt an; and reacting the onium salt derivative and with a sulfonic acid derivative represented by formula (24):



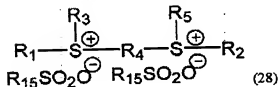
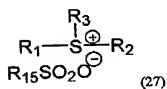
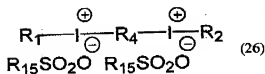
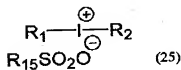
wherein R_{15} represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤ 25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and Y represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, or ammonium,

to thereby cause salt exchange and yield an onium salt derivative represented by one of formulas (25) through (28).

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13. (previously submitted) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 12, wherein each of R_1 , R_4 and R_9 is a methyl group or an ethyl group.